

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for interfacing applications comprising a computer executable software architecture stored on a computer readable memory, said software architecture further comprising:

a public application program interface ("API") comprising a set of generic objects; and  
a plurality of adapters, each adapter configured to interface with a workflow engine API, wherein each workflow engine API is associated with an underlying workflow engine;  
wherein each adapter is operable to map said set of generic objects to a set of native objects for a corresponding underlying workflow engine.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein said set of generic objects comprises a generic process definition object and wherein each of said plurality of adapters is operable to translate said generic process definition object into a native process definition object for said corresponding underlying workflow engine.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a payload object.

4. The system of Claim 3, wherein said payload object associates a set of content items with a process instance.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein in said set of generic objects is based upon an industry standard for workflow management.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein said set of generic objects is based upon a standard reference model promulgated by the Workflow Management Coalition.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein said a generic object from said set of generic software objects is one of a WfDefinition object, a WfProcessMgr object, a WfProcess object, a WfRequestor object, a WfActivity object, a WfAssignment object, a WfResource object, a WfEventAuditBundle object, a WfUser object, a WfGroup object or a WfRole object.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a WfPayload object.

Gray Cary\AU\4074650.1  
2101905-991371

9. A system for interfacing workflow applications comprising a computer executable software architecture stored on a computer readable memory, said software architecture further comprising:

- a first workflow engine;
- a first workflow engine API associated with said first workflow engine, wherein said first workflow engine API comprises a first set of native objects;
- a second workflow engine;
- a second workflow engine API associated with said second workflow engine, wherein said second workflow engine API comprises a second set of native objects;
- a public API comprising a set of generic objects;
- a first adapter configured to map said set of generic objects to said first set of native objects; and
- a second adapter configured to map said set of generic object to said second set of native objects.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said set of generic objects comprises a generic process definition object and wherein said first adapter is operable to translate said generic process definition object into to a first native process definition object and wherein said second adapter is operable to translate said generic process definition object into a second native process definition object.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a payload object.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said payload object associates a set of content items with a process instance.

14. The system of Claim 9, wherein in said set of generic objects is based upon an industry standard for workflow management.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein said set of generic objects is based upon a standard reference model promulgated by the Workflow Management Coalition.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein said a generic object from said set of generic software objects is one of a WfDefinition object, a WfProcessMgr object, a WfProcess object, a WfRequestor object, a WfActivity object, a WfAssignment object, a WfResource object, a WfEventAuditBundle object, a WfUser object, a WfGroup object or a WfRole object.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a WfPayload object.

Gray Cary\AU\4074650.1  
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18. A method for integrating workflow engines comprising:  
creating a set of generic objects;  
interfacing with an underlying workflow engine through an associated workflow engine API;  
mapping said set of generic objects to a set of native objects for said underlying workflow engine.
19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
persistently maintaining a generic process definition object; and  
delegating at least a portion of the set of generic objects to a set of corresponding native objects at said underlying workflow engine.
20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising translating said generic process definition object into a native process definition object and persistently maintaining said native process definition object.
21. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a call from an application understandable by a generic object from said set of generic objects  
mapping said call to a native call understandable by a native object from said set of native objects;  
prosecuting said native call to generate a native result;  
mapping said native result to a generic result usable by a generic object from said set of generic objection.
22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a payload object.
23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said payload object associates a set of content items with a process instance.

24. The method of Claim 21, wherein in said set of generic objects is based upon an industry standard for workflow management.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said set of generic objects is based upon a standard reference model promulgated by the Workflow Management Coalition.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein said a generic object from said set of generic software objects is one of a WfDefinition object, a WfProcessMgr object, a WfProcess object, a WfRequestor object, a WfActivity object, a WfAssignment object, a WfResource object, a WfEventAuditBundle object, a WfUser object, a WfGroup object or a WfRole object.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said set of generic objects further comprises a WfPayload object.